

## Message Text

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15 11  
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 DPW-01 IO-13 NIC-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /153 W

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R 100838Z AUG 73  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7867  
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8048

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 3 R E N U M B E R E D T O R E A D 2

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR CH IN UR  
SUBJ: NCNA ON SOVIET-INDIAN RELATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 8866; NEW DELHI 8924; PEKING 0746

SUMMARY: IN AN UNUSUAL PAIR OF COMMENTARIES ON INDIA, NCNA ATTEMPTED TO PORTRAY GROWING DISSATISFACTION IN INDIA ON SOVIET-INDIAN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. NCNA AUG 9 CARRIED TWO ARTICLES ON INDIA PORTRAYING THE DISSATISFACTION OF CERTAIN INDIAN POLITICAL FIGURES AND WORKERS WITH SOVIET-INDIAN RELATIONS. ONE ARTICLE SAID A NUMBER OF INDIAN POLITICAL FIGURES "HAVE EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH INDIA'S ALLIANCE WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON THE BASIS OF THE 'INDIAN-SOVIET  
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FRIENDSHIP TREATY' AND HAVE DEMANDED THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT

"PURSUE AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY AND ESTABLISH NORMAL RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBORS." QUOTING THE STATESMAN ON INDIAN SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MADHU LIMAYE'S REMARKS OF JULY 16 THAT INDIA HAS "THROWN OVERBOARD HER PROFESSED POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT," THE ARTICLE NOTED LIMAYE'S SUGGESTION THAT "INDIA SHOULD IMMEDIATELY SCRAP THE INDO-SOVIET TREATY AND ESTABLISH NORMAL RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBORS INCLUDING PAKISTAN." NCNA ALSO QUOTED A RESOLUTION ADOPTED LAST APRIL BY THE 6TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE SWANTANTRA PARTY CONDENMING THE TREATY AND CALLING FOR "ESTABLISHMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBORS," AND CITED AN ANSA NEWS AGENCY REPORT FROM NEW DELHI ABOUT INDIAN PARLIMENT MEMBERS CRITICIZING THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY"WHICH IS BIASED TOWARDS THE SOVIET UNION."

3. THE SECOND NCNA ARTICLE NOTED THAT BOMBAY DOCKERS WHO BECAUSE OF INDIA'S EDIBLE OIL SHORTAGE HAD REFUSED TO LOAD GROUNDNUTS ONTO A SOVIET VESSEL HAD WON THEIR POINT WITH AUTHORITIES CONCERNED. THE GROUNDNUTS REPORTEDLY WERE SCHEDULED TO BE SHIPPED AS PART OF THE DEBT SERVICE TO THE SOVIET UNION. NCNA SAID THE DOCKERS ACTIONS WERE SUPPORTED BY INDIAN PUBLIC OPINION.

COMMENT: NCNA 'S TREATMENT OF THESE INDIAN DEVELOPMENTS REFLECT PEKING  
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DESIRE TO MAGNIFY ANY FISSURES IN SOVIET-INDIAN RELATIONS AND ALSO TO ENCOURAGE INDIAN GESTURES TOWARDS BETTERING RELATIONS WITH CHINA. CERTAINLY THE REFERENCE (THREE TIMES IN THE FIRST SHORT ARTICLE) ABOUT INDIA'S NEED TO "ESTABLISH NORMAL RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBORS" IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT DISCUSSION IN NEW DELHI AND PEKING ABOUT EXCHANGING AM-BASSADORS. (REFLTELs).  
DEAN

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